

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. These claims are reflected in the substitute specification.

1. (Currently Amended) A body reinforcement device for a vehicle comprising a rigid reinforcement member for rigidly connecting two portions to be reinforced of a vehicle body to each other and a damping force generating means member connecting the two portions of the vehicle body such that both the rigid reinforcement member and the damping force member for generating viscous damping force generally span the space between the two portions of the vehicle body spanning, along the reinforcement member, the space between the portions to be reinforced.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 2}~~ The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the damping force ~~generating means is~~ member comprises a hydraulic damper.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 3}~~ The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the damping force ~~generating means member comprises~~ is a rubber visco-elastieviscoelastic member made of rubber.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 4}~~ The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid reinforcement member comprises a first end and a second end, the damping force member comprises a first end and a second end, and at least one ends of the rigid the-reinforcement member first end and the damping force generating member first end collectively are means are fixed to the one of the two portions of the vehicle body to be reinforced through by one mounting bracket.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 5}~~ The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid reinforcement member and the damping force member a plurality of members each being at least either one of the reinforcement member and the damping force generating means are formed and are disposed side by side in a parallel orientation to each other at the sides of the other member.

6. (New) The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 5, wherein the rigid reinforcement member comprises a first member and a second member, the first and second members being disposed side by side to the damping force member.